

John Holden Greene House  
150 Power Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-196

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
96-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-196

## JOHN HOLDEN GREENE HOUSE

Address: 150 Power Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island

Present Owner: Bryant College of Business Administration, 154 Hope Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Present Occupant: Bryant College students

Present Use: Men's dormitory

Brief Statement of Significance: This house, built in 1822, was designed for his own use by John Holden Greene, leading Providence architect in the early 19th century. It was later the home of two governors of Rhode Island, Elisha Dyer, and Elisha Dyer, Jr.

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
96-PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner, John Holden Greene.

Later owned by Elisha Dyer, Governor of Rhode Island, 1857-1859, and Elisha Dyer, Jr., Governor of Rhode Island, 1897-1900.

2. Date of erection: 1822
3. Architect: John Holden Greene
4. Notes on alterations and additions: The house was moved from the next lot east, 154 Power Street, about 1960. The interiors have been altered somewhat to accommodate the present use of the building as a dormitory, with additional bathrooms, modern tile floors, etc. Only one of the original fireplaces remains.
5. Sources of information: Norman Morrison Isham, John Holden Greene, unpublished mss. in possession of John Hutchins Cady, Providence, Rhode Island. HABS Inventory prepared by John Hutchins Cady, November 20, 1956.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This two-and-a-half story, frame house, built in 1822, was designed for his own use by John Holden Greene, leading Providence architect in the early 19th century. The house is traditional in its layout like Greene's other work, but is very free and inventive in some of its details, particularly the stairway and the tripartite windows on the front.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in sound condition, the exterior largely preserves its original appearance, many interior features have been removed or covered over.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block, c. 36' x 45' (three-bay south front) two-and-a-half stories, short two-story projection added on west side later, rear wing.
2. Foundations: Modern concrete and concrete block, new foundations and basement date from recent moving of the house.
3. Wall construction: Frame, clapboards, wood quoins
4. Porches: Wooden front porch nearly the width of the house, one story, six Doric columns spaced unequally.
5. Chimneys: Originally four chimneys in main block, only one remains on east wall.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance on south front, large door with ten panels, side lights and elliptical top light, wood mullions, deeply molded trim.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Three-bay front, with tripartite windows in heavily molded frames with deeply projecting cornices. Single windows with similar frames on the sides, - simple frames in rear. Shuttered under-window aprons on lower front windows, extend to floor and apparently opened originally.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Hip roof with high monitor, about half the area of the main roof.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Formerly had double balustrades on eave of main roof and on eave of monitor roof. Molded cornices, foliated scrolled brackets in the eaves.
- c. Cupolas: Monitor topped by a high cupola.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan, double connected parlor on east side, now separated, dining room on southwest, large kitchen in rear wing to northwest. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement. Small bedrooms on third floor in the monitor. One room in cupola with doorway to the roof. Original kitchen and library remodeled as bedrooms, and several bathrooms added.
2. Stairways: Central hall divided by archway with main stair at back, U-shape with semicircular landing. Open string stair with shell motif step end ornaments. Unusual turned balusters with large knobs, round fluted newels, heavy molded handrail ramped and curved in unusual ways.
3. Flooring: Modern asphalt tile or later hardwood
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted
5. Doorways and doors: Deeply molded pilaster door trim, with carved corner blocks in principal rooms. Six-panel doors, flat-sunk panels.
6. Trim: Molded archway in central hall supported on foliated consoles. Double parlors divided by four fluted columns with Ionic capitals with unusual pattern of bees and beehives carved on surfaces of the volutes and the lintels. Paneled under-window aprons. Molded plaster cornices in most rooms.
7. Hardware: Some original silver-plated hardware in front rooms.
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Central heat. Only one fireplace survives, in southeast room, two-story wooden mantel, lower part with fluted engaged columns supporting entablature with Adam festoons, paneled over mantel with fluted pilasters, and broken scrolled pediment with an urn.

D. Site

Faces south on narrow level lot, surrounded by other buildings of Bryant College.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
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